10th November 1965]

Mineral Deposits

* 397 *Q.*—SRI V. SANKARAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any survey has been conducted by the State Geological Branch in the various districts of the State regarding deposits of oil, minerals, gypsum and limestone; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir. The State Geology Branch of the Industries Department has been carrying out detailed investigations for various minerals in this State except for oil. Investigation for oil is being carried out by the Oil and Natural Gas Commision, a Government of India undertaking; and

(*b*) Details are published in the Book entitled "Minerals of Madras".

* 398 *Q.*—SRI V. SANKARAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a vast stretch of area bearing limestone suitable for the cement industry has been discovered near Karur in Tiruchirappalli district and Dindigul in Madurai district; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. In 1959, the State Geological Branch investigated these areas for limestone and estimated the reserves to be in the order of 187 million tons of industrial grade. Later in 1963, the areas were investigated in greater detail by the State Geological Branch by mapping on enlarged scales and drilling at suitable intervals to infer the depth of persistence of limestone and its variation in quality at depths. This revealed the occurrence of limestone of cement grade to the extent of 95 million tonnes, admixed with impure limestones over a stretch of 18 miles in an ENE-WSW direction between Karur and Dindigul. Even if 50 per cent allowance is given to the Vagaries of nature, the reserves of limestone in the area would be 47;5 million tons. Further details can be had from the reports of the Geologists published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 11th October 1961 and 14th July 1965.

திரு. வை. சங்கரன் : இந்தக் கனிவளத்திலிருந்து நம் மாநிலத்தில் என்ன பலனுள்ள தொழில் ஆரம்பிக்க முடியும் என்று சர்க்கார் கருதுகிறது ?

கனம் திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்டராமன் : சிமெண்ட் தொழில் தான் ஆரம்பிக்க முடியும்.